Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 //054 W

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R 230340Z DEC 76 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3152 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 TAGS: SREF, VS, CH, HK

SUBJECT: PRC DUMPS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 11867

- 1. HONG KONG PRESS CARRIED SHORT ITEM 21 DECEMBER ON 19 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRESTED ON 17 DECEMBER FOR ENTERING HK ILLEGALLY. BOAT LOAD CONSISTED OF 14 MEN, TWO WOMEN (1 PREGNANT) AND 3 BOYS.
- 2. OFFICIAL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SOURCES INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT DURING QUESTIONING BY HKG IMMIGRATION OFFICALS, THEY LEARNED THAT FOUR OF THE MEN HAS SERVED IN ARVN FOR FROM 1 TO 3 YEARS. REFUGEES STATED THEY LEFT QUI-NHON ON 20 AUGUST BUT DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE NEAR WEST PRATAS ISLANDS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WERE RESCUED BY PRC GUN BOAT. THEY WERE WUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO HAINAN ISLAND AND ON 10 OCTOBER TO CHAM KONG CITY, KWANGTUNG PROVINCE. ON 14 DECEMBER THEY WERE TAKEN BY BUS TO HEUNG CHAU (NEAR MACAU) AND ON THE 17TH RETURNED TO THEIR JUNK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS BY PRC GUN BOAT AND POINTED TOWARDS HONG KONG.

3. REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GRANTED PROVISIONAL 3MONT STAY IN HONG KONG UNDER UNHCR GAURANTEE.

COMMENT: HKG VIEW IS THAT THIS CASE INDICATES PRC UNWILLINGNESS TO RETURN REFUGEES TO SRV AND PEKING'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO USE HK AS A CONVIENT "DUMPING GROUND" FOR THOSE IT DOES NOT WISH TO RETAIN. HKG ALSO DOUBTS THIS GROUP IS THE SAME ONE MENTIONTED IN REFTEL. CROSS

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